

## **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1.           A gravity-operated separable link, comprising:  
a link body having a plurality of connection ends including at least a first connection end and a second connection end;  
a strength determination element disposed within said link body and located between the first and second connection ends; wherein  
said strength determination element is gravity-operated and moves between at least first and second positions of said link body; and  
wherein when said strength determination element is in the first position, said link body possesses an energy-to-yield that is greater than the energy-to-yield of the link body when the strength determination element is in the second position.
2.           The link of claim 1, wherein:  
the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or less than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.
3.           The link of claim 1, wherein:  
said strength determination element is capable of buoyancy in a submerged situation such that a natural state of the link engages the second position.
4.           The link of claim 3, wherein:  
the buoyancy of said strength determination element is such that, as the link travels between a submerged situation and a non-submerged situation, the first position is engaged.
5.           The link of claim 1, wherein:  
the plurality of connection ends includes at least one swivel connection.

6. The link of claim 2, wherein:  
said link body further comprises a bendable portion; and  
the second position engages the bendable portion of the link body whose energy-to-yield threshold yields by bending.
7. The link of claim 2, wherein:  
said link body further comprises a bendable-breakable portion; and  
the second position engages the bendable-breakable portion of the link body whose energy-to-yield threshold yields by initially bending and then by breaking.
8. The link of claim 1, wherein:  
the strength determination element comprises a female member, a male member, and moveable space fillers; wherein  
the moveable space fillers are capable of moving to at least a first location and a second location, wherein the first location facilitates said first position and the second location facilitates said second position.
9. The link of claim 1, further comprising an airtight chamber.
10. The link of claim 9, wherein the moveable space fillers are round, bearing-like members.
11. The link of claim 1, wherein the strength determination element comprises at least one of a bearing-like member, a tube, a plate, and a bar.
12. A gravity-operated separable link, comprising:  
a plurality of connection ends included at least a first connection end and a second connection end;

strength determination means for determining the energy-to-yield of the separable link, the strength determination means located between the first connection and second connection ends; wherein

said strength determination means is gravity-operated and moves between at least first and second positions; and wherein

the first position possesses an energy-to-yield that is greater than the energy-to-yield of the second position.

13. The link of claim 12, wherein:

the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or less than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.

14. The link of claim 12, wherein:

said strength determination means is capable of buoyancy in a submerged situation such that a natural state of the link engages the second position.

15. The link of claim 14, wherein:

the buoyancy of said strength determination means is such that, as the link travels between a submerged situation and a non-submerged situation, the first position is engaged.

16. The link of claim 12, wherein:

the plurality of connection ends includes at least one swivel connection.

17. The link of claim 13, wherein:

said link body further comprises a bendable portion; and

the second position engages the bendable portion of the link body whose energy-to-yield threshold yields by bending.

18. The link of claim 13, further wherein:  
said link body further comprises a bendable-breakable portion; and  
the second position engages the bendable-breakable portion of the link body whose energy-to-yield threshold yields by initially bending and then by breaking.

19. The link of claim 12, further wherein:  
the strength determination means includes a female member, a male member, and  
moveable space means for filling a space; wherein  
the moveable space means is capable of moving to said first and said second positions.

20. The link of claim 12, further including an airtight chamber.

21. The link of claim 19, wherein the moveable space means includes at least one of: a bearing-like member, a tube, a plate, and a bar.

22. The link of claim 1, wherein:  
the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or more than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.

23. The link of claim 12, wherein:  
the energy-to-yield of the first position is equal to or more than one or more lines attached to said plurality of connection ends.